

Remarks

Drawings

Applicants appreciate the care taken by the Office to identify a duplication of numerical references. The undersigned has reviewed the specification and drawings for other instances and could not find any.

Applicants submit corrected drawing pages 13 and 14, with corrections replacing reference numerals 150, 152, 154, and 156 with 350, 352, 354, and 356, respectively, in Figs. 29-31. Applicants have amended their specification accordingly.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 has been amended to provide proper and full antecedent basis for each use of "the tubular boundary" and "the longitudinal interior chamber" from the initial use of those terms earlier in Claim 1.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-18 were rejected by the Office as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,216,863 (Nessa et al.) Applicants clarify their invention in Claim 1 et al. and otherwise traverse this rejection.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner-edited drawings from Patent '863. It is a very effective tool for explaining the rejection.

However, a careful review of Patent '863 and the Examiner-edited drawings clearly demonstrates that the disclosure of Patent '863 does NOT include

the at least one female engagement portion extends into the longitudinal interior chamber from a vertex of adjacent wall faces
(emphasis added)

which all Claims of this application require.

This structural relationship among the female engagement portion, the vertex of adjacent wall faces, and the longitudinal interior chamber results in a fundamental

feature of the invention: **the mating of a male engagement portion with a female engagement portion occurs inward from the vertex of the two adjacent wall faces.**

"The arrangement of a form element 10 permits the internalization of the engagement points. That is, the engagement of male and female portions can occur internally of the exterior boundary of a form element. This allows all external side surfaces, such as walls 14, of the form element to lie within a plane for creation of a flat surface engagement." Page 14, Lines 1-5 of the Specification. See also, Fig. 5.

"The arrangement permits the production of corners and intersections without projections extending beyond a flat wall surface 14 of a form element 10." Page 14, Lines 7-9.

Also, in a preferred embodiment, the interior mating allows for the use of flat panel insert or wall panel 22 to form a substantially flat wall by closing an open cross-sectional triangular open space or area 24 created between two engaged form elements as shown in Fig. 7 of the application.

Please see Page 14, Lines 12-30 and Page 15, Lines 1-8. Please see Fig. 7.

Nessa et al. never disclose or suggest the importance of internalized mating of form elements. This is a *fundamental* distinction between Nessa et al. and Applicants' Claims 1-18. This fundamental distinction is a patentable improvement upon Nessa et al.

Applicants have added clarifying and emphasizing amendments to the claims.

Conclusion

Applicants are entitled to a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-18.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Date


John H. Hornickel
Registration No. 29,393